

GIFTING THIS WONDERFUL WORLD WITH EXPLOSIONS!

PROLOGUE

"Explosion!"

Pulling her hood down, someone calmly recites the incantation, yet the magic power is very frightening.

The explosive noise tremors through the air, and scorning wind sweeps by.

The giant black beast that was chasing me disappears without any resistance.

Even my sacred playground is also completely destroyed by the vast magic power. The toys that took so much effort to collect are all gone.

An overwhelming power that sweeps away everything.

The destructive force is greater than any other magic.

A single wizard causes such serious devastation in a single strike.

What kind of spell was that?

Never seen the adults in the village used such powerful magic.

The person wearing a hood walks over to me, who remains dumbstruck.

"Are you okay? Are you injured?"

She stoops to examine my expression.

Her tight, rustic robe pushes her large breasts forward, when she bends over.

Awesome. Although the spell earlier was also awesome, but this is even more awesome.

"How can I become like big sister?"

Asking such a question before even thanking her.

Mother's recent nagging has already been branded into my mind.

"Our family has always been poor, so you should just give up early" - these kind of words.

I will not give up, even to the very end.

Bearing these thoughts, I clench my fists, and stare at her well-endowed area...

The hooded person looks at me and almost laughs.

"Little girl, what is your name?"

"Megumin."

.....

After a short moment of silence, the big sister says awkwardly,

"... Is that a nickname?"

"It's my real name."

The big sister becomes silent again, then adjusts her mood and says,

"How can you become like me? Hm... If you eat a bit more, study hard, surely becoming an arch wizard..."

Becoming an arch wizard will enlarge one's breasts.

Becoming an arch wizard will enlarge one's breasts!

"Yes. If you can become an arch wizard, one day you will be able to cast that spell. But I won't really recommend this kind of magic though."

The hooded person seems to be saying something, but I am already completely lost in my dream of becoming an arch wizard.

"But..."

While looking around, the hooded person pats my head, while I am muttering "arch wizard, arch wizard".

"Hey, little girl. Besides you, are there any adult here? Someone must have broken the seal on that tomb over there... After all, the seal fragments are here, and it should not have broken by itself..."

The hooded person tilts her head, and picks up my toy by her feet.

"That person should not have gone far yet, who freed me? ... Never mind. It's pointless to ask you."

After speaking, the hooded person walks over to the crater blasted by the magic earlier.

The black beast in the middle of the crater is dying.

The hooded person places her hand on the head of the black beast...

"Sleep a little more, my other half. This world is too peaceful, you should not be awake..."

The hooded person whispers, while her hand seems to be draining the monster of something, glowing.

In the glow, the giant monster seems to become smaller and smaller.

Not long after, it shrinks to the size of a cat, then blurring, and finally disappearing.

"Now then, I'll... Eh? Little girl, what are you doing?"

The hooded person looks at me, while I'm picking up the toys scattered on the floor.

"I'm collecting my toys. My family is poor, so I only have these toys."

"Sigh. Wrong, wrong. This is not a toy. These fragments are used to seal a very scary evil god... Eh?"

I fit the fragments I picked up together, and find that there are missing pieces.

There are 3 missing pieces of fragments.

"Big sister's spell blew away 3 pieces. Can you help me to look for them?"

"No, no, no! This is too strange! How can you fit the pieces together so easily? This is too strange! Even an adult sage would have difficulty with this. Why is it like this..."

The hooded person strokes her hands, looking troubled.

"Little girl, when did you come to this sealed place to play? Didn't the adults in the village warn you not to go near here?"

"Mother said that usually the places that have warnings like 'Do not enter. There is nothing here. Do not come close.' would have hidden treasures, so I come here everyday."

"Why, why is it like this...!"

The hooded person panicks, her voice rises by an octave.

Then, she stands by my side, placing her hand on my head.

"Although some parts are a bit dubious, it seems I should thank you. Little girl, do you have any wish? Despite how I look, I am a mysterious arch wizard who possesses great power. I can fulfill your wish, whatever it may be."

"Wish?"

"Yes, wish. Don't be polite, say whatever you want. No matter what it is..."

"World domination."

"...So-, sorry. That cannot be done. Child, you may well become a great person in the future. Um, do you have any other wish?"

Her hood is drawn really low, so only a bit of her mouth can be seen twitching.

"Then let me have big breasts."

"This, this also cannot be done. By the way, how old are you, little girl? Surely not yet at the age to worry about this?"

Looks like this is also impossible.

Then...

"Let me become the demon king."

"S-, Sorry! I need to correct what I said. Compared to your greatness, big sister is only a wizard with a bit of power. I can only grant an ordinary wish."

The hooded person apologizes to me, her face sweating.

I look at the fragments in my hand.

"...My toy is missing 3 pieces. It's enough if you just help me find them."

"Wait! That's wrong. I can help you fulfill a somewhat bigger wish...! And, you should not treat the fragments as a toy! The black thing earlier has merely been sealed away again! Do not come here anymore, understand? Do you not have any other wish? A somewhat bigger wish..."

The hooded person looks embarrassed, looking at me somewhat fearfully.

...A somewhat bigger wish.

In that case--

"Please teach me that previous spell."

Chapter 1; CRIMSON-EYED WIZARDS

PART 1

--This morning's scene is a common occurrence to me.

The homeroom teacher holds the name list in one hand, taking attendance.

"I'm taking attendance... Arue! Bebe! Sachi Bailey!"

The students, who are called by the teacher, respond accordingly.

The replying students are all girls.

This school separates boys and girls into different classes.

The small classroom has only 11 students, so the names get to me quickly.

"Megumin!"

"Here."

After getting my response, the homeroom teacher nods in satisfaction.

"Okay, everyone is present. Then..."

"Te-, Teacher!"

The student next to me raises her hand, just as the teacher is about to close the name list. She looks as if she is about to cry.

"My name has not been called yet..."

"Eh? Oh, sorry! There is only 1 student on the next page. Sorry, sorry! Then... Yunyun!"

"Here!"

After her name is called, Yunyun, who has her hair tied and should have been angry, replies blushing.

--This is the small school for the village of the Crimson Magic Clan.

Upon reaching the right age, all kids in the village will learn general knowledge in this school. At the age of 12, they will gain the advanced job known as "arch wizard", and begin learning magic.

The Crimson Magic Clan is naturally blessed with high intelligence and vast mana. They usually have to remain in school until they master magic.

Here, mastering magic amounts to graduation.

In other words, everyone in this classroom still do not know magic.

The students here daily accumulates skill points in order to master the type of magic they desire.

Different magic requires different amount of skill points.

The more powerful the magic, the more skill points it requires.

Besides this, the type of magic the students here want to learn is definitely --high-tiered magic.

This is what all wizards look forward to, the ability to use all kinds of powerful magic skills.

In the Crimson Magic Village, mastering high-tiered magic is the only way to be officially recognized as a wizard...

"Now, announcing the test results. As our usual practice, the top 3 will receive the Skill Increase Potion. Starting with the third! Arue!"

With my peripheral vision, I look at the student who lazily come forward to get the potion, then I look out of the window in a daze.

"Second place, Yunyun! You live up to your name as the chief's daughter, well done! Continue to be diligent."

"Ah, ye-, yes!"

I look at the side, as Yunyun stands up, blushing.

Besides killing monsters to gain experience points and level up, skill points can only be gained by drinking the rare Skill Increase Potion.

Thereafter, everyone is fighting to get the potion in order to learn high-tiered magic as soon as possible.

"Next is the first place, Megumin!"

Having my name called, I rises to get the potion.

Yunyun, who is beside me, appears disatisfied.

"Your results are very consistent! I keep feeling that you already have enough skill points to learn high-tiered magic... But never mind, continue to work hard!"

Taking the potion and returning to my seat, I look out the window again.

From the second floor window, one can see beyond the village.

Is the unnamed person, whom I met as a child, currently travelling in high spirits?

As the homeroom teacher is still encouraging other students, I quietly take out a card from my chest pocket.

This card is called Adventurer's Card. In the job field, it is written Arch Wizard.

Level 1. There are 45 skill points displayed below.

In the available skill list, the words "Learning 'high-tiered magic' requires 30 skill points" is glowing.

"Other students should learn from Megumin, and work hard to master high-tiered magic! Now then, let's start the lesson!"

Ignoring the homeroom teacher's words, my finger touches a certain row of gray words in my card's skill list...

Learning "Explosion spell" requires 50 skill points.

In the Crimson Magic Clan, only by learning high-tiered magic will a person be officially recognized as a wizard, but that is not the magic I want to learn.

The destructive spell cast by that robed person is still fresh in my mind.

Definitely must learn Explosion spell.

And, someday I must let that person see my magic--

PART 2

During the break after the first period ended, "Pat!" - a hand slams on my desk.

"Megumin! You understand right?"

The person talking to me is Yunyun, who sits besides me.

She is the Crimson Magic Clan chief's daughter, all-rounded in skills, even becoming a prefect.

"Fine. By the way, what is my breakfast for today? I'm famished."

"Is, is that so? Today's meal is prepared by me whole-heartedly... No, wrong! Why is my defeat a foregone conclusion? To-, today I definitely will not lose! This time, I will show you the victory of the chief's daughter!"

She self-proclaims to be my rival, but she treats me free meals everyday.

As Yunyun declares herself, she places her meal box on my desk.

I place the potion I received earlier on the desk as well.

"I will decide the match's content as well. The chief's daughter can surely make a bit of concession. Also, a bet involving a rare potion and a packed meal is simply unfair."

"I understand. Megumin, you can decide the match's content."

So easy to scam.

"Then, the match's content will be during the next physical examination, whoever is slimmer and environmentally friendly..."

"That's cheating! There is no way I can win Megumin in this match!"

What...!

"Although I decided the content, I'm still angry that you can so confidently declare this! We are at the same age, so there cannot be too big a difference! Just how self-conscious are you, little girl!"

"Ouch, ouch! Stop. The match's content has to be during the physical examination? If you are so energetic, why not have a match during physical education class?"

I'm still knocking Yunyun to the sound of "Pat, Pat, Pat", while other students already left for the medical room.

According to my long years of research, the saying that "Becoming an arch wizard will grow big breasts", which I heard when I was a child, may not be without basis.

Probably, mana circulation can allow blood to flow more smoothly, accelerating puberty. Most of the powerful wizards in the village have big breasts.

Therefore, as the top student in class, I should have big breasts soon.

Still indulging in fantasy, I walk towards the medical room. Yunyun hurriedly follows behind.

"Hey, Megumin! If you are so confident, let's use the common rule of size comparison? Ah, don't walk so fast...!"

When we enter the medical room, the examination has already begun.

Mine is an all-girls class. I'm the shortest one.

I think this is a nutrition issue.

Thanks to my highly sensitive father who is a magic item artisan, my family is in poverty throughout the year.

The inconsistent meals I'm getting probably affected my growth.

"Ah, Arue has grown, already the first in class. Good, next is... Megumin... Hm. I always say this to you, even if you stick your chest out, it is pointless. I use examination magic, so it won't change the results even if you take a deep breath and hold it."

My bit of effort is wasted. The medical room's teacher uses magic to determine my true figures.

"Hm... Megumin has grown slightly taller. Next is Yunyun."

"Oh no, because I have become bigger, so definitely will lose... Ah, I really lost to Megumin again... Ouch, ouch! Why? I lost the match, and my packed meal has been taken. Why does Megumin still hit me?"

"Ask that to your hateful breasts!"

"Megumin, stress is not conducive to growth!"

PART 3

I eat the breakfast plundered from Yunyun.

"Megumin! There is some high grade pudding made from natural Neloid. It is most suited for dessert!"

"Thanks. Ah, there is no spoon."

"Ah, so-, sorry. Please wait."

I silently eat Yunyun's meal at my desk, looking at her hurriedly take out the spoon. At this time, Yunyun finally recovers her wit, and slams the pudding and spoon on the desk.

"Wrong! I'm trying to use the pudding as a wager! Why must I diligently take care of Megumin!"

"My daily feeling is that I'm like a kitten or puppy reared by Yunyun. So, isn't it about time you bring me home? Buy some snacks along the way."

"Eh! Can I really...? No, it's not like that! We are rivals! Besides, your so-called 'buy some snacks' is nothing more than snatching away my food!"

When did I become her rival?

Whatever, first return the meal box to Yunyun after finishing the meal.

"Thanks for your hospitality. Today's flavor is not bad. Very delicious. Tomorrow, I like to have more protein."

"Ah, is, is that so? Then tomorrow I..."

Yunyun takes her meal box, happily keeps it in her school bag, and recovers her wits.

"I, I already said, this is very strange! Why must I..."

"Get back to your seats. Now is lesson time. Hey, don't bring pudding to school. Confiscate!"

"Ah!" x2

Inadvertently entering the classroom, the homeroom teacher confiscates the pudding.

The teacher ignores Yunyun, who is softly moaning "My pudding..." next to me, and starts the lesson.

The homeroom teacher writes lines of magic system on the blackboard, urging students to take notes.

We silently take notes. As the teacher explains magic, he blatantly eats the pudding.

"Today I will explain special magic. First is the the 3 magic types written here. Elementary, intermediate, and advanced magic. There is no need to further explain these. You should already know that advanced magic as the highest level magic."

The homeroom teacher writes 3 magic types on the blackboard again.

"In this world, besides advanced magic, there are also special systems of magic, known as Blast magic, Detonation magic, and Explosion magic. Although these magics are very powerful, they are hard to control and consume a lot of mana. Therefore, few people use them."

Originally only seeing the teacher eating pudding, I suddenly react to the term "Explosion magic".

"Firstly, Blast magic. This magic can smash even bedrocks. The wizards who learn this will be summoned by the country to further public development. But learning Blast magic requires as much skill points as learning advanced magic. Therefore, unless you want to be a civil servant involved in civil engineering, it is best not to learn it."

Blast magic. Blast magic... I write it neatly in my note book, seriously listen to the teacher's explanation without missing a word.

"Next is Detonation magic. This is the magic wielded by the legendary Arch Wizard. Before she release a barrage of Detonation magic, the opposing monsters will let themselves be buried without resistance. But this magic consumes a lot of mana. An ordinary wizard can cast it only a few times. Even if you are confident in your mana reserves, learning this magic is still not practical."

Detonation magic--Detonation magic--

I write down "Detonation, Detonation".

At this point, the teacher puts down the chalk, and returns to eating the pudding.

Seriously, he has not explain the most important Explosion magic!

"Teacher. About the Explosion magic..."

I stand and raise my hand. All my classmates turn to focus on me. The homeroom teacher also laughs.

"Forget about Explosion magic. It requires a ridiculously high amount of skill points to learn. Even for a wizard with large mana reserves, he most likely cannot cast it even once, due to the immense amount of mana required. Even if he is lucky enough to cast it, the immense power will not only defeat monsters, but also change the physical terrain. If it is cast inside a dungeon, the entire dungeon will collapse. The explosive noise will also attract nearby monsters. Yes, Explosion magic is simply useless."

PART 4

--The third period is national language lesson.

"Everyone, for us Crimson Magic Clan, grammar and vocabulary is very important. Do you know why? ...Megumin! Please explain why grammar, etc is important to Crimson Magic Clan."

Upon being called, I stand up.

"Because the speed of casting and accuracy of pronunciation will affect the control of magic."

"3 points, still not good enough."

"3, 3 points!?"

I only gotten 3 points... 3 points...

I sit down dejectedly. Yunyun, next to me, is called.

"Next, Yunyun! You provide the correct answer."

"Yes! The sealed, historical magic uses ancient script. It is necessary to learn them in order to dispel forbidden curses."

"30 points! Forbidden curses and sealed magic are well-said, but other parts are wrong!"

"30 points!? ... 30 points..."

Yunyun sits down dejectedly. The teacher seems disappointed at us, sighing deeply.

"Sigh... Are you two really the top in class..."

"Ah!" x2

The teacher's attitude causes us to exclaim, but this annoying teacher ignores us, and calls another student.

"Arue! For Crimson Magic Clan, why is grammar and vocabulary important!"

The third in class, Arue, stands up, raising her head and sticking out her chest.

"To prevent the appearance of strange aliases like 'Flame User of Exploding Fire'. Also, to present an interesting monologue before a battle, exciting the mood."

"100 points! Yes, our aliases are very important. I personally possess the best alias in the village. When you graduate, you need to decide your alias as well. In the next physical education lesson, I will give you all a demonstration!"

PART 5

Calling it a field is just a name. It is essentially an open space created by using fire magic to burn away the vegetation in front of the school.

The teacher, wearing a cloak, has been burning things for some time.

The rising smoke seems to be higher now than when I arrived at school. The teacher must have came to school really early just to do this.

As the smoke rises, the sky darkens.

The teacher probably burnt expensive rain-making talismans, summoning the clouds in advance.

When the teacher is satisfied with the size of the clouds drifting in the sky, she nods slightly.

"Good. Next will be combat training! For us Crimson Magic Clan, what is the most important thing during combat? Hm... Yunyun, you answer!"

"M-, me? I, I think, the most important thing during combat... is, is calmness! The calmness to be unmoved by any event is the most important!"

"5 points! Next is Megumin!"

"5 points!?"

Yunyun, after being given 5 points by the teacher, becomes depressed, ceaselessly muttering "5 points...".

What is the most important thing in combat? Isn't the answer obvious!

"Destructive power! The power to lay waste to everything! Only power is the most important!"

"50 points! Power is indeed necessary. If there is not enough destructive power, combat for the Crimson Magic Clan cannot be done. But it is not entirely correct, so only 50 points!"

"I got merely 50 points...!?"

"I only got 5 points..."

The teacher looks at our dejected expressions, and spits on the ground, as if saying, "The top students disappoint me this much."

"Puh!"

"Ah!" x2

The hateful teacher ignores our cries, and calls another student.

"Arue! Surely, you know! To someone like you who covers the right eye with an eyepatch, what is the most important thing in combat!"

If the classmate is to remove the eyepatch covering her eye, she will be regarded as "really beautiful". Arue, who doesn't look like she belongs to the same grade, uses her index finger to lift her eyepatch from below.

"It's being cool."

"100 points! Not bad, Arue. Give you a Skill Increase Potion! We, Crimson Magic Clan, must fight elegantly! Now, I will demonstrate..."

"Call of Sandstorm!"

I don't know what spell the teacher has been casting. Among the drizzling dark clouds that has been there since earlier, greenish-white lightning flashes.

A powerful magic is being invoked, as unnatural winds sweep by.

The classmates press down their hair in the strong winds. The teacher takes out a staff she prepared, and raises it high in the air.

"Mine is the name of Budin, arch wizard, user of advanced magic..."

After the teacher declares her name, lightning strikes the staff tip.

Then, the teacher flips her cloak, fluttering wildly in the wind.

"The strongest homeroom teacher of Crimson Magic Clan, the one who will eventually become the principal...!"

Following the teacher's declaration, an even bigger stroke of lightning flashes.

With the lightning glow behind her, the teacher maintains her pose, holding her staff and flipping her cloak.

"Too cool!" x3

As my classmates cheer loudly, I look around. Only Yunyun holds her hands to her cheeks, trembling slightly.

Because the teacher is too cool, she doesn't dare to look directly at her. I hear her whispers softly.

"How, how embarrassing...!"

It seems the rumor that this girl has weird sensibility is true.

I heard that after entering puberty, some children will start admiring strange people. This phenomenon is called Chuunibyou*. She probably has it too.

Note (*): See <http://animanga.wikia.com/wiki/Chuunibyou>

In the howling winds, the teacher finally makes a move, clapping her hands while saying,

"Good! Pair up with a classmate you are close to! Then, make a cool self-introduction to each other, be conscientious about experimenting with poses!"

Hearing the teacher's words, Yunyun's body trembles.

I want to know what's up with her, so I stare at her. She looks around uncertainly, then glances at me.

She surely wants to pair up with me, but it's difficult for her to ask because she declares herself as my rival... So troublesome.

I decide to forcefully pair with her, then make her cry with my coolness. But at this time, someone interrupts.

"Megumin, do you have a partner? If not, want to pair with me?"

Turning around, I'm faced with a pair of big boobs unlike those of a 12-year old like me, as if they are being shown off intentionally... This makes me even more annoyed.

At that moment, "Ah" --a soft voice is heard behind me.

No need to turn around to look. It is surely Yunyun.

The eyepatch-wearing classmate who spoke to me, Arue, seems to be doing warm-up exercises, rotating her head and jumping.

Her boobs bounce along with her jumps...

... This one is an enemy!

"Fine. Based on my statistical results, your chance of becoming a powerful arch wizard is very high. Therefore, here and now, let's decide who is better!"

"Can statistics even analyze such things!"

Yunyun complains accordingly, but I have no time for that.

"Does everyone have a partner? There should be one extra student, who will pair with me, the teacher."

"Eh? Ah!"

Yunyun looks around nervously, finding herself alone. She can only walk towards the teacher, dejectedly.

.....

"Arue. I'm not feeling well today. I want to rest during physical education lesson. Maybe it's because the food I got from Yunyun earlier has something bad in it."

"Ah!?"

Hearing me, Yunyun shows an expression of gratitude and shock.

"Teacher, I'm not feeling well. Can I rest a bit during lesson?"

"How can you be like this? No. You have never properly attended a single physical education lesson. Today's lesson is especially important. Don't pretend to be sick."

Facing the relentless teacher, I moan and collapse on the ground.

"No. To try this trick on me..."

"Gon-, gonna awaken...! If this persists, the one within me will take possession of this body...!"

"What, Megumin, you...! How is that the thing sealed within your body will awaken...!? It can't be helped, I permit you to go to the medical room. Let the teacher in the medical room reinforces the seal."

"I understand. Then I will leave now."

--Okay, is everyone now in pairs? Start now!"

I listen to the teacher's instructions, as I walk towards the medical room.

If the physical education lesson expends the calories I made so much effort to gain from Yunyun's packed meal, it would be a waste.

After I received the nutrition medicine with sealing power (also sold in the market) from the medical room teacher, I lie down on the bed.

In the quiet medical room, I pull the blanket up to my neck, thinking about what the teacher said previously.

--Explosion magic is a useless magic.

I wrap my head in the blanket, as if in resentment.

"Te-, Teacher! It's raining! ...or rather, it's a sandstorm! We have already witness teacher's cool poses, so can you stop the rain?"

"The tulips carefully planted by the principal in the flowerbed have been washed away!"

"Ca-, can't stop it! This is terrible. The moon, as the source of magic, rises to its highest point today. My suppressed power has been released...! Let me stop this rain! Do not worry about me, go and take shelter in the school building!"

"Teacher! Be honest, you only considered the performance earlier. You didn't think about how to stop the rain at all!"

Hearing the voices from the field, I slowly close my eyes--

PART 6

"Hey, Megumin, why are you spinning around before my desk, showing off your Skill Increase Potion? Is there something you want to say?"

"Nothing... Oh yes, Yunyun's packed lunch looks delicious today."

"Is, is that so? Besides the box you have stolen, I made another portion... Ah, I won't give it to you! This portion is not for wager. If this packed lunch gets stolen too, I will have no lunch to eat, so I won't challenge you!"

"....."

"Stop. Don't dangle the potion before me. Quickly drink it already!"

"....."

"Do-, don't! I won't give it to you! Ev-, even if you show such a sad face... I also... only give you half..."

After eating the lunch gained from Yunyun, an announcement is being made in the school.

"Based on Teacher Budin's analysis, a mysterious rain suddenly happens since this morning. Doubtlessly, it is due to the evil god of rain and sloth who was sealed somewhere in Crimson Magic Village. After checking, the principal confirms that this downpour has traces of magical influences, meaning it is artificial. All the teachers are controlling the rainfall, therefore all afternoon lessons are cancelled. The weather outside currently has strong winds, lightning, and heavy rain, making it dangerous for students to go home. Therefore, please do some self-study in school."

Looks like the teacher has shoved the responsibility on the evil god.

As I'm plotting how to use this situation to scam dinner, some students stand up.

Probably going to the school library to pass time.

--There is something I want to research too.

I wildly shoved the food I forcefully took from Yunyun into my mouth...

"I already said half! Only giving you half!"

After tossing the lunch box at Yunyun, I run to the library.

This is the Crimson Magic Village school which produces many arch wizards, so the library should be well-stocked.

From unspeakable legends to dubious practical manuals.

Yunyun, who came along on her own, is looking for something in the shelves for practical manuals.

"Abstinence Magical Manual for Making Friends", "Guide: Even Snails Can Be Good at Communications"

Yunyun takes a few unintelligible books, but looking at her eyes that seem to glow, I decide to keep her muttered words to myself.

I continue searching for my target book, sliding my finger across the books on the shelf.

"Secret Origins of Magic Crimson Clan", "Until the Fall of the Magic Kingdom", "Dukes of Hell Series, Volume 4, Prophetic Demon", "The Truth About Residents of the Other World"

Interesting books flash by one after another. Finally, I find what I'm looking for.

"Practical Use For Explosion Magic"I take this book, and flip through it.

"Explosion magic is the ultimate destructive magic. It is the most powerful offensive magic that can inflict injury to everything in existence. Currently,

the way to learn this magic is mostly lost, only known by humans who have spent many years in magical research and non-human wizards who have live for a very long time. And, not only is it difficult to learn, its opportunity for use is also very limited. Thereafter, wizards who use this magic are also known as Minefield Wizards, frequently rejected by adventurers who are looking for party members."

Reading this, my admiration for Explosion magic has slightly shaken.

In the scene I witnessed as a child, it is a destructive magic that violates everything.

I have always admired the hooded person and her magic--

"Firstly, a person with ordinary talents cannot use it. Even if it has been learnt, it cannot be used due to the vast amount of mana consumed. It is a mystery why such magic was developed. In the present situation, only non-human wizards, who have immensely long lives, will whimsically use excess skill points to learn this magic....."

.....Reading this, I put the book back in the shelf.

I get the feeling that if I keep on reading, I will be even more devastated.

At this time, I notice an interesting title next to where I put the book.

"Rhodes the Untamed"

Attracted by the strange title, I reach out to take the book.

--The story is about a senile old king, accompanied by two retainers, roamed about his territory in order to change the world.

Due to an unexpected incident, the villagers learnt of the old man's identity, and accused the governors of various crimes. The governors insisted on their innocence, claiming the villagers were lying.

The old man sentenced both parties to beaten 50 times, punishing both the villagers and the corrupt governors. As a result, both villagers and governors allied and defeated the old man together.

The old man raged, declaring he will raze this land, while his two retainers consoled him, "It is time for a meal", and brought him back.

After fighting together on the same side, the villagers and governors learnt the benefits of unity. Not long after, they built a great city there, unsurpassed by any other cities--

.....Where is the second volume?

I search for the sequel of this book.

"Hey, what is this book? Super funny! What, don't you have friends?"

In the quiet mood of the library, there is a sudden burst of incompatible noise.

I look over, and see that it is Yunyun and another classmate.

This is... This situation is...!

"Friend... That..."

"You don't have any, right? Otherwise, why would you... 'You Can Be Friends Even With Fishes'...? Hey, hey. Forget about this book. At least choose one about mammals..."

"Stop right there!"

I jump between Yunyun and that classmate, severely pointing at the latter.

"Your goal is first to bully a pitiful girl, then taking advantage of her broken heart, pretend to be her friend in order to make all kinds of unreasonable demands, right! Even if you can hide this from others, you cannot hide it from my eyes!"

"Ha!?"

After being exposed by me, the classmate appears to panick.

"Hey, wait, I don't understand what you are talking about! I'm only making conversation because I saw Yunyun has taken an interesting book..."

"Me-, Megumin, what's up? Are you influenced by some strange book you have read? Hm. It's just someone conversing with me..."

The classmate and Yunyun separately explain to me, but-

"No, I merely detected a disharmonious mood, so I interevened as I have nothing to do. And because I skipped the earlier lesson, I'm the only one who did not practice self-introduction, so I'm somewhat dissatisfied."

"Way too unreasonable!" x2

Probably because someone heard the shouts of Yunyun and the classmate, the library doors open.

"Hey, you people are too noisy. Be quiet in the library. I will think of a way to stop the evil god from causing rain. The principal's and my power are evidently enough to supppress the evil god somewhat..."

"Teacher, didn't you tell us that it is your suppressed power that was released...! The evil god is too pitiful, if it gets the blame for everything!"

The classmate spits out her words, complaining about the irresponsible teacher.

"No, the villagers have checked the Tomb of the Evil God. It seems some idiot messed with the seal, and broke it. Apparently, there are still a few missing seal fragments. The evil god and its minions who were sealed may burst forth at any time. After all, the seal is made specifically for the evil god, so its minions may have already escaped. Thereafter, before it is re-sealed, please do not go home alone."

The homeroom teacher tells us.

PART 7

"Hey, do you know? About 7 years ago, when we were still children, the seal of the evil god was broken. There was a big crater before the Tomb of the Evil God, right? It is said that it was the scar left behind by the wandering wizard who re-sealed the evil god."

Back in the classroom, the classmates are discussing this matter.

In this village, even such unbelievable rumors become subjects of discussion.

I cannot remember the childhood events clearly anymore, but the wandering wizard they mentioned, should be the hooded person who saved me.

Because the teachers have left to investigate the evil god, we are dismissed from school today.

The classmates leave in groups based on the locations of their homes. Only Yunyun and me are left in the classroom.

My house is at the corner of Crimson Magic Village, so no classmate's house is nearby.

The classmates who are going to buy snacks group tightly together, saying, "This is tasty, that is also not bad". This is probably one of the reasons why nobody bothers me.

With no other option, I decide to go home alone.

"Ah....."

Yunyun, who also remains in the classroom, reaches out a hand, making a soft sound. She seems to be calling me.

"what is it?"

"Uh? No, nothing, hm... Megumin's house is along my way home, so..."

Yunyun's house is the village chief's house, built in the middle of the village.

If my house is along the way, it would mean taking a detour...

"...Want to go back together?"

"Can I? Ah, but we are rivals. To be this close..."

Yunyun's face seems to brighten, saying such troublesome words. I ignore her, walking out of the classroom quickly. Yunyun runs out after me.

"Wait! From tomorrow onwards! We'll resume being rivals starting from tomorrow!"

--Bringing Yunyun outside, the clouds drift unnaturally.

Did the teacher really cause such unnatural occurrence just for the sake of performance?

Burning an expensive talisman just to act cool, truly a top rate Crimson Magic Clansman.

Although the homeroom teacher is useless in many aspects, this is one aspect you have acknowledge.

I walk my way home without stopping. Yunyun, who is following behind, says uncertainly.

"Megumin, are you free? Hm, if possible..."

Yunyun invites me to snack along the way.

Even paying for it.

"Of course, I have no reason to reject. Why is this happening though?"

"Eh? On-, only because I'm a bit hungry..."

Yunyun is embarrassed.

"Fine, it is the puberty stage after all. But as a girl, wouldn't it be unnatural if your appetite is too big?"

"Wait! Megumin, you have no right to say that! I'm hungry because you ate my lunch! Be-, besides..."

Yunyun's voice suddenly lowers.

"Buying snacks with a friend, shopping on the way home... That is... I'm somewhat looking forward to it..."

"Ah? What did you say?"

Yunyun mumbles something, so I intentionally turn back and position my ear before her to listen.

At first, Yunyun embarrassingly lies that she didn't say anything. But after I interrogate her multiple times, she finally cries and repeats her previous statement clearly.

PART 8

"Welcome! Welcome to Crimson Magic Clan's top rated coffee shop! Isn't this Megumin, Hyoizaburo's daughter? I heard you are very conscientious in school. Everyone says that you are the top genius of Crimson Magic Clan. Seldom sees you eating out, what would you like to order?"

"I want something with high calories that can make you feel full easily."

"Megumin, this is not the way a girl should order food! Hm. The chef's recommendation..."

Yunyun and I arrive at the terrace of the village's only coffee shop.

The shop owner brings us the menu. He seems to be my father's acquaintance.

"Recommendations... 'Stew of Dark God's Blessing', and also 'Spicy Noodles in Lava Dragon's Breath Style'."

"I want spicy noodles."

"Give me this one on the menu, 'Sacrificial Lamb Sandwich for the Demon God'."

"Okay! Dicey Doodles in Lava Dragon's Breath Style, Sacrificial Lamb Sandwich for the Demon God. Please wait a moment!"

"It's Spicy Noodles!"

Yunyun red-facedly corrects the dish name in a serious tone. I slow drink the free fruit juice.

"Megumin, Megumin. Although it's out of the blue, may I ask a question?"

"What? Since it's your treat, I will answer normal questions. Is it about my weakness? My current weakness is sweets. After-meal dessert is my weakness."

"I'm not asking this! Besides, what kind of weakness is that? Normally, you would eat in big mouthfuls."

"Isn't it commonly said - 'Sweets are a girl's enemy!' What do you want to ask then?"

I press her. Suddenly, Yunyun becomes hesitant.

Looking at this girl's expression arouses my sadism.

"Megumin, do you have a boy that you like?"

"Yunyun is in heat!"

Hearing her words, I stand up in shock. Yunyun explains hurriedly while nearly crying.

"No, not like that! Think about it, chatting among girls tends to be trivial, right? I merely yearn for such conversations! I don't have someone I like!"

Her words reassure me, so I sit down again.

"How should I put this? Yunyun, you are a strange kid by Crimson Magic Clan standards. I heard that, during physical education lesson, you could not decide on a cool pose because of your shyness."

"Am I really strange? Since I was young, I always feel that the villagers are somewhat weird..."

Weird Yunyun feels dejected because of what I said.

She has no friend in class, probably due to her weirdness.

"So, what type of guys does Yunyun like?"

"Eh?"

Facing my question, red-faced Yunyun rolls her eyes in shock.

"Don't you want to chat? Being trivial. By the way, for me, I won't accept any guy who lends out money only when he gains some benefits. Best if he sets high goals, works hard day and night, is honest and serious."

--Peaceful afternoon time.

I chat endlessly with my self-proclaimed rival, as we go back home.

PART 9

"I'm home."

"Welcome home, big sister!"

Upon reaching home, my sister, who is younger by a few years, runs out of the house to meet me.

Komekko, who is just 5 years old, has hair slightly shorter than mine.

Komekko wears my old robe. The part which is too long has already been stained with mud.

"Ah... The robe's edges are muddy. Asked you to watch the house. Did you run out to play again?"

"Yes! I defeated the newspaper man, then I went out to play!"

"Oh, you won again today. You are truly my younger sister."

"Yes! I said, 'I have not ate any solid food for 3 days.' After that, he left behind some food coupons!"

Komekko shows off the fruits of her labor in satisfaction.

As I pat her excellent head, Komekko suddenly senses something.

"There is a fragrance on big sister's body."

"You are truly my younger sister. I brought this back. 'Sacrificial Lamb Sandwich for the Demon God'! Eat until you explode!"

"Awesome! A feeling like becoming a demon king. Then, let the dinner I caught become tomorrow's breakfast instead!"

Sandwich-loving Komekko says suddenly.

...dinner that was caught.

I remember back then, Komekko caught some cicadas, and suggested frying them to eat. I suddenly feels scared.

"Komekko, what did you say the dinner is? What have you caught?"

"Want to see? I defeated it after a deadly battle. A savage black beast!"

Komekko leaves behind this frightening statement, and runs back home.

Hopefully, it is not a bug. Hopefully, it is not a bug!

While waiting, I pray without stopping. Shortly after, Komekko carries something out...

"...Meow..."

That is a black kitten that, for some reason, is exhausted.

"...You really caught something."

"Yes. I worked hard! It was fighting back at first, but it became subdued after I bit it a few times."

"Although victory is a good thing, you shouldn't just randomly bite things."

Komekko nods obediently after hearing this. I take the black kitten.

The black kitten hides itself in my arms. It seems to have a bad experience, fearfully tugging its head into my chest.

Komekko takes big bites out of the sandwich, then pausing to stare at the sandwich still in her mouth, offers it to me.

"...Wanna eat?"

"I ate already. Komekko can eat it all. Anyway, I will take care of this furball, okay?"

"Okay!"

Komekko indulges herself in eating the sandwich.

--I let the kitten into my room, seeing at it naturally curling on my bed, I whispers softly.

"What to do with this cat?"

For it to be this shameless, perhaps it isn't just a stray.

But it cannot become breakfast as Komekko wanted. There is no spare food in the family to feed it either.

And if I release it and it gets caught by Komekko again, it will definitely becomes Komekko's meal... Then--

PART 10

--The classroom is so noisy.

"...Megumin... ...Megumin..."

"Good morning, Yunyun. Why do you have such expression on your face?"

Yunyun frowns anxiously, and greets me good morning.

"...What is this?"

"My familiar."

Yunyun is asking about the black cat lying on its back on the desk, while playing with my fingers. I introduce it again to everyone. This is my familiar.

"Familiar!? I originally thought that only in myths are there wizards who can control familiars!"

"Look at its cute and fearless face! This cat is too scary. It must be pretending to be pure and innocent, eyeing our lunch boxes for her master Megumin!"

"This is not what I wanted! But --give you some food!"

My classmates have all been charmed by the charisma of my familiar.

Maybe this kitten truly possesses bewitching power.

Looks like it will get its own food by staying here. I'm relieved.

"Wow, wow, wow! ...It's loose and soft...! Megumin, what is its name? Have you given it a name yet?"

Yunyun's eyes seems to glow, wanting to touch the kitten. But as Yunyun reaches out her hand, the cat raises his front paw, warningly.

Rejected by the cat, Yunyun puts down her hand with a sense of loneliness.

"What's with this kitten? Feels like it is not too friendly towards people other than Megumin."

As Arue says this, the kitten accepts her out-stretched finger, enjoying her caress with its eyes half-closed. Seeing this, Yunyun feels like crying.

"It doesn't have a name yet. If I leave it at home, its life will be in danger, so I want to bring it to school daily."

Hearing this, my classmates frown, looking troubled.

"The kitten is so cute, so I'm fine, but what will the teacher think..."

"Yes, although it's very cute, the teacher probably won't allow it. Although it's really very cute."

As expected, the homeroom teacher is the biggest obstacle...

"Not allowed."

The homeroom teacher says upon entering the classroom.

I raise the cat which is putting its best effort to act cute.

"Teacher, this is my familiar. It feeds on my mana. If it leaves me, it will surely die."

"Not allowed. How can someone who cannot use magic yet have a familiar. The school forbids bringing familiars and snacks! Put it back when it belongs."

As expected, it doesn't work. Then...!

"Teacher, this is the other me. It's my other half that reserves my power. Although most of the power is with me, it is still another aspect of me. We are of one mind, cannot be separated!"

"...It seems your other half hates being carried by you, and is struggling for its life."

"Because I'm about to enter the rebellious stage."

I put down the cat, and it starts to scratch the classroom walls.

"Your other half is currently indulging in its instinct to sharpen its claws."

"Crimson Magic Clan must be always ready for battle, so it must sharpen its claws. Because most of the intelligence and reason are with me, so my other half has the power, instinct, and animalistic appearance."

"Alright then."

"At first glance, it looks like a very cute me, but inside... You allow it?"

The homeroom teacher suddenly allows it without a fuss... originally, I still plan to explain how me and my other half are in a deadly conflict over this body.

"Because it is very amusing, so let it be."

Our homeroom teacher is well-known for being amused by improper matters, but his statement makes me uneasy.

"Hey, Megumin! Pee and crap only in designated area! Look, it's here, here! You can only pee here! Well done! Megumin is remarkable!"

"....."

"Doesn't it stink to put Megumin's leftover food here? Best to leave it at the back."

"....."

"Ah, really, Megumin! Don't sharpen your claws everywhere! Don't show such a cute expression, while tilting your head! No... Ah, Megumin is really too cute!"

"AHHHHHHH!"

"Oh no! Fake Megumin has suddenly gone berserk! Looks like it isn't only cuteness alone, she has finally lost her intelligence and reason to her other half as well!"

The classmate who calls me "Fake Megumin" shouts aloud, after seeing me flip over my desk.

"Who are you calling a fake? I'm the real Megumin! Don't keep calling it Megumin again and again!"

"What's the matter, Megumin? You said the Megumin over there is your other half, right? The Megumin who possesses intelligence and reason, while the other Megumin possesses power and instinct, right?"

"Megumin, Megumin, Megumin, Megumin --everyone calling my name everywhere, I cannot take it anymore! Please give this cat a name!"

Seeing my angry expression, Yunyun hugs my other self.

"Even if you say that, it has been decided today that 'this is the real Megumin'... Look, it finally starts to accept me. I can hug Megumin now! ...Instead of giving this one a name, why not let's change Megumin's name? Ouch, ouch!"

"Traitor! You don't care about your rival changing names! The name 'Megumin' has been called more times today than in all my schooling days combined!"

Hearing my complaints, my classmates show a bitter expression.

"So difficult to finally have a cute name like Megumin..."

"Ah... My cute Megumin is being bullied by the not-cute Megumin..."

"Hey, you are just picking a fight!"

As a Crimson Magic Clansman, who never backs down from a fight, I raise my chair, ready to throw it at my classmates.

"...Chomsuke."

Arue mutters word by word, considering the cat's alternate name.

"...Perejil."

Another student whispers.

"Joey", "Roundie", "Kazuma".

But it seems none of these names are satisfactory. The cat in Yunyun's arms makes a noise with its nose, as if it is sneezing.

Hearing the endless alternate names, Yunyun lifts the cat.

"This cat is female..."

"...As expected, the most appropriate is still Megumin."

"I'll kill you!"

As I confront that classmate, Yunyun suddenly shouts.

"Black! Blackie! ...How about it? See, because it's a black cat..."

"....." x2

The surrounding falls into silence.

"Also not bad. It's easier to remember weird names."

"Eh!? Ver-, very weird...!?"

...Yes, it is truly a strange name, but maybe it's easier to remember.

After being named, the cat in Yunyun's arms narrows its eyes, as if it's happy.

"Then, temporarily use this strange name 'Blackie'. When it truly becomes my familiar, I'll seriously give it a grand-sounding name."

"Strange? Hey, as expected, I'm really weird!? In this village, the strange one is me!?"

Yunyun complains with tears in her eyes. I hug Blackie.

PART 11

"Hey, Megumin. Want to go shopping for small items today?"

On the way home from school..

Yunyun said before that being close to me was limited only to yesterday, but for some reason she is still following behind me today.

But I never consider her to be a rival anyway, so this isn't bad.

"Is there small items in this village?"

"The blacksmith is making small items on a whim. Hm. Megumin..."

"Admiring cute accessories with someone else on the way home is your dream, right? Fine, let's go then."

Yunyun and I go to the blacksmith.

"Welcome! Oh, so it is the weird girl from the chief's house and the weirdo Hyoizaburo's daughter. Want to buy something? For little girls like you... How about this great sword? There are also axes and hammers."

"Weird, weird girl..."

"Why do you want to give a delicate girl such crude weapons? There is no need for us to use weapons."

Furthermore, it is strange enough that someone is selling weapons and armors in a village of wizards.

Making staves would be somewhat more reasonable...

"Girls swinging a huge weapon is also great. Contrastingly cute."

"What world would have girls like that... Yunyun, how?"

Yunyun is looking around inside the shop.

"Hm. I heard that this place started making small items..."

"Small items are over there. Crimson Magic Clan only likes ridiculously long and complex sword-like weapons. So those are not in much demand."

The big blacksmith indicates the shop corner with his chin.

Hm... Should this be called a small item, or a small knife...

"Normally, when one speak of small items, it refers to accessories, not small weapons."

"Even if you say that... Because I have no customer, if not for such items, I would have to close my shop down."

The shopkeeper must have chosen the wrong location for his shop.

Anyway, how does the shopkeeper make money?

"From your expressions, you seem to be wondering how I make a living. After all, I'm still an arch wizard, who can use my vast mana to control furnaces that cannot be controlled normally and create high quality armors. Among armor lovers, my armors are fairly popular. Although I can't say her name, the daughter of a noble family loves to wear my armor."

"Why would the daughter of a noble family wear armor? Yunyun, it's almost time to..."

Yunyun carefully picks up a silver dagger, and looks at me.

"...You like this?"

Yunyun nods.

Back home, Komekko made a muddy mess of her robes as usual.

"Welcome home, sis! Brought anything to eat?"

"No food today. By the way, where did you go again? Recently, the seal of the evil god in the village is about to break, so do not go out."

I don't know how much of my words Komekko actually heard. She just stares at Blackie in my arms.

"... (swallows saliva)"

"!"

Fearful of Komekko, Blackie climbs up from my shoulder, trying to hide inside my hat.

To think it climbs up her owner's body. What an audacious cat.

"Sis, dinner is meat!"

I shivers slightly at my younger sister, who treats both pets and bugs as food.

"Komekko, wait a bit longer. This cat is too thin, doesn't have much meat to eat. Let it grow fatter before eating."

"I see. Sis is so cliver!"

Komekko smiles heartily. I don't know what she has done outside to become like this. I use my hankerchief to wipe the mud on her face.

"Komekko has been playing outside again?"

"I found a toy, let's play together! Sis also wants to play?"

Toy... Toy?

For some reason, this term doesn't make me feel relieved. Or rather, it makes me very concerned.

Yes. Probably, I also...

"Sis, take bath! Wash the kitten as well. I think this step is called 'Removing Astringency'."

"Komekko, the kitten is shivering inside my hat, so don't say anymore.

PART 12

After I bathed with Komekko and Blackie, we eat a simple dinner, and return to my own room.

The stairs is slightly noisy, so mother has probably returned.

Father is definitely still making magic tools without rest.

I lie on the wollen blanket, putting Blackie on my belly.

Then I remember.

"Speaking of toys. When I met her, I still asked her to help me find my toys."

I mumble to myself in the dark room, lifting Blackie up before me and looking into its eyes.

In the darkness, Blackie seems to understand what I said, staring at me without blinking.

Fearless, big, round, and cute eyes.

...Why?

Whenever I see this cat, I will think of that person.

I cover my head with the blanket. It naturally sneaks beneath the blanket as well.

"Hey, as a guest, your attitude is truly arrogant."

Under my blanket, I enjoy stroking Blackie, who has curled up on my belly.

At this time, I still think I won't leave the village for a while--

Spending my life by schooling and caring for my sister, without change--

INTERLUDE: A PRELUDE

--The Unsolvable Jigsaw Puzzle and Seal of the Evil God--

I arrive at the playground I frequently visit.

Squatting before the tombstone is...

"What a big goblin!"

"...Hey, brat, don't compare me to a goblin."

"I'm not Brat. I'm Komekko."

"Is it? ...Hey, Komekko, what are you doing here? This is the tomb where the other half of the evil god, Lord Wolbachia, was sealed. Your family members did not tell you to avoid this place?"

"They did, but sis said, we of the Crimson Magic Clan should not yield to unreasonable demands."

"...Is, is that so? So troublesome, to think I have no choice but to eliminate such a brat..."

Sprouting a pair of bat wings, huge and black, the non-goblin lowers its shoulders.

"I'm not Brat, I'm Komekko. Not-a-goblin guy, what are you doing here?"

"Not-a-goblin guy... Hey, brat, look closely! I have huge horns and wings, which signify evil! Also, goblins do not have such a muscular body! I am the aide of the evil god Lord Wolbachia. I'm a greater demon, named Lord Houst. Remember it!"

"So cool!"

Looking at Houst with his outstretched wings, I raise my arms and cheer.

"Oh, oooh, is it... You have good taste. Normally, I have to silence any witness, but I will let you go as an exception. But you must not tell anyone about me. Everything that happens here must be kept a secret. This is a special treatment, so be grateful!"

"Thank you very much."

Although I don't know what's going on, I thank him anyway. I sit in front of Houst, and pat - "Pat! Pat! Pat!" - on his big, hard leg.

"What a strange brat... Never mind, I have important things to do. Do not disturb me, understand?"

Houst turns his face away, and fiddles with something before the tombstone... Ah!

"That's my puzzle!"

"Eh? This is not yours. This is a precious item that can break the seal of Lord Wolbachia... Hey, hey hey, you...!"

I put the puzzle together. Houst is surprised for some reason.

"You are pretty competent! While I'm hiding from the villagers, I could not solve the puzzle even after a few months... Okay, I know what to do next! Hey, give it to me!"

"Ahah, Houst snatched them away!"

"Eheh, I don't care what you say. Also, don't call my name directly, you smelly brat. You should call me Lord Houst! Now, Lord Wolbachia can fully recover his power. Hereafter, he can be overbearing as before... Uh, what is this, strange..."

After snatching away the puzzle pieces, Houst attempts to fit the pieces on the pedestal before the tombstone, but fails repeatedly. Finally, he droops his shoulders, and looks at me.

"...Hey, Komekko, I will let you play with this puzzle as a special exception. You may continue."

"I'm hungry, so I don't want to play puzzle for now. Lord Houst, take your time with it."

".....Although I'm ashamed to say this, but, you better stop calling me Lord Houst. I will find food for you, so you help me solve the puzzle, Komekko."

"....."

".....I beg you, Komekko."

"I understand."

Hearing my reply, Houst unwillingly beats his wings to fly off somewhere.

I watch him fly off, then pick up the puzzle pieces once more--

